

REMARKS

Claims 1-94 are pending, with claims 1, 21, and 30 being independent. New dependent claims 35-94 are being added by this amendment. No new matter is added.

This preliminary amendment is being filed in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and an IDS following a Notice of Allowance mailed on August 19, 2004, which allowed claims 1-34. No amendments have been made to the original claim set with the exception of independent claim 30, which has been amended merely to place the claim in a better grammatical format.

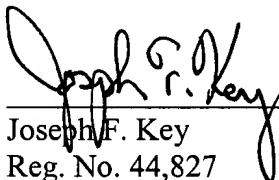
Additionally, the Notice of Allowance noted that a substitute declaration was needed because no oath or declaration had been filed. To the contrary, enclosed is a copy of the executed declaration that was timely filed on October 26, 2001 in response to a Notice to File Missing Parts mailed on June 29, 2001.

All claims are in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request that all claims be allowed.

Enclosed is check for \$1870 of which \$1080 is for excess claim fees and a \$790 is for the RCE fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/18/2004



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